



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

# CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

May- June 2020 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153 Volume 3 Issue 3



## The Impact of COVID-19 on Washoe County Parks

As you are all probably well aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the way Washoe County Parks currently operate. Here are some useful resources for up-to-date information on COVID-19 impacts:

Updates impacting Washoe County Parks including closures and cancellations: [www.washoecountyparks.com](http://www.washoecountyparks.com)

Modified hours and services for all County departments: <https://www.washoecounty.us/reduced-operations.php>

The City of Reno/City of Sparks/Washoe County Regional Information Center: <https://covid19washoe.com/>

Regarding volunteering at the Arboretum and all Washoe County Parks, we have had to make the difficult decision to suspend all volunteering for the time being. However, once we are able to return to our usual activities, we expect to need volunteers more than ever! We will have lots of catching up to do and seasonal staffing levels will be lower than usual due to budget cuts. You have my word that I will continue to keep you updated as we find out when and how to phase volunteering back in. Trust us, we are anxious to have your help again, and we really miss you too!

Thanks, Denise Evans



Inside this Issue:	
COVID-19 Park Impacts	1
Volunteer's Corner: Welcome Letter	2
Volunteer's Corner Sharing Our Stories	3-6
Social Distancing Activities	7
Arboretum Updates	8
Calendar of Fun Dates	9
Interesting Spot: Our Own Backyard	10

## Volunteer's Corner

Gardeners plant a seed with a hope and a dream of what it will become. They look for possibilities. Even when it doesn't quite turn out the way they envisioned, they've made their part of the world a little bit greener, a little bit more beautiful.

Volunteers see a need and move to fill it, knowing that they get back much more than they give. They inspire others to look at their world differently, to find unity in their community. They bring joy to themselves and others, just by sharing.

Arboretum volunteers are the combination of both. They inspire hope, bring us beauty, share their joy, teach others about the wonders of our world, and share hope of a brighter day and infinite possibilities. They show us resilience.

I know these past couple of months have been a true challenge to us. Our world and routines changed quickly. Sometimes, it's hard to picture how the rest of the year will unfold, and if it will get better. We miss our friends and hugging our loved ones. And sometimes, we're just afraid.

I hope this special issue of the Connections newsletter will bring you a little reminder of the best of our lives, the hope that is still here; a reminder that life is still marching on, just a little differently.

Several members of our Arboretum "family" have shared pieces of their lives: pictures, thoughts, a few jokes, some memories, and also some fun things you can do while social distancing.

Thank you to Kass Kirkham, Rod Dimmitt, Becky Conrad, Elaine Graham, Danny Carrasco, Nichole Tracey, Bill Carlos, and Denise Evans, for making this issue so very special.

Enjoy!

Bev Treadway, Editor

**So, just how does our Arboretum Family adapt to this changing world around us?**

**We still teach and give walks; just virtually, on Facebook ...**



Check out the May Center's Facebook page and take a virtual walk. Nichole Tracey has added some really fun videos including Arbor Day, Earth Day, Ancient Trees, and Outside is Healthy. These are inspiring, with activity ideas for things to do while you are social distancing.

[www.facebook.com/wilburmaycenter/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/wilburmaycenter/videos/)



### Volunteer's Corner

**We make things beautiful for our serving family members ...**



I have been working in my backyard, redoing all of the DG, giving it a bit of a fluff. I also did some along the side of the house, where our fruit trees are, adding some flag stone as you walk off of the patio! I had rented a trailer and over 3 days, moved 6 cu. yards of rock and DG. Putzing in the yard is always something that I love to do, and since my wife has taken a 3 month contract position at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, in Hollywood, CA to help them with their COVID-19 issues, I have had lots of time on my hands. Doris is an Infection Control practitioner and has had some wild stories about life in So. Cal. I hope that you are doing well, and stay safe!

Rod Dimmitt





## Volunteer's Corner

### We share our lives ...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF.....

by Kass Kirkham

When we started the stay at home restriction I don't think anyone actually thought how it would affect our everyday lives, our economy and the world. I didn't. I did wonder how long would it last. Will we be wearing masks and keeping a safe distance for weeks or months? We still don't know. But however long it takes, we all need to keep calm, work together and keep ourselves safe and occupied.

I have to admit, I am staying occupied. We always have something to do especially now that our garden is waking up. We walk as often as we can. We're fortunate to have walking paths so close to home. We take advantage of the neighborhood paths as well as the various park paths, the Arboretum and the river path to downtown Reno. I didn't realize how many of our neighbors have dogs. I bet the dogs can't wait to get back to normal either.

We're lucky to have technology providing us with the ability to have virtual visits with family and friends in this time of social distancing. We have a weekly virtual cocktail happy hour with our friends. Seeing friends and chatting about everything and nothing really does lift my spirits. We're all in the same boat but everyone deals with it differently. It helps a great deal to get another's perspective. We also continue our Ollie classes and exercise classes by video meetings. Talk about the 'new normal.'

We're catching up on TV shows and movies that we didn't make time to watch the first time around. I'm spending a bit more time on the computer reading about things that I wouldn't normally be interested in. I've discovered that there are a lot more house projects than I thought there was. I also realize how much of a procrastinator I am.

Since all of our activities have been cancelled, I actually started to mark off the calendar days because I was having hard time remembering what day it is.

These are not ordinary times. We shouldn't try to predict the future. We just need to have patience. In the meantime, stay positive; enjoy spring and our beautiful surroundings. I certainly am.



The picture of the turtle was taken in the Caughlin Ranch neighborhood.

## Volunteer's Corner

### We find the humor in life and make each other laugh ...

A few thoughts to bring a smile:

I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.

I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator. PSA: Every few days, try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog...we laughed a lot.

So, after this quarantine....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?

Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.

I'm so excited...it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?

I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda..  
I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.

Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said, "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year." I'm offended.

Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.

(Shared by Kass Kirkham)



Bev's south Reno backyard greenhouse, post wind storm. Looks like I'm direct seed sowing this year! I know in the welcome letter I said we plant seeds with a "hope and a dream ." This year will be more like a wing and a prayer!



## Volunteer's Corner

### We Find New Ways To Volunteer ...



Becky Conrad turned her home into a Covid-19 mask assembly line workshop. She is making them for Renown Hospital and her family members.

### We prepare a Victory Garden ...

This is but a small sample of various seeds that were started. I'm also constructing a pond in my backyard, digging up volunteer plants and up potting them. I also was successful in sprouting a giant sequoia seed...so excited.

Danny Carrasco



### We Expand Our Lives ...

Hi Everyone!

I'm new to volunteering this year but am glad to add a sentence or 2. The most enjoyable thing about being restricted, is the ability to "stop & smell the roses!" I knew this country was on a treadmill going way too fast but I guess it took something significant to slow the treadmill down. Enjoying the springtime activities of the local birds is soooo relaxing. I'm also currently practicing page 5 of the Rhapsody in Blue piano solo & hope to move on to a different troublesome page every week. Getting 3 generations of family photos sorted out is also taking about 2 hrs. of my time daily. Next week I plan to start painting the outside of my house & taking my time to detail the whole exterior.

Elaine Graham





## We find new ways to have fun ...

### Social Distancing Family Fun

By Bev Treadway

Note: I've attached links to the different activities. If you would like more information on any of the projects, or topics, you can email me at [Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com](mailto:Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com).

**The Secret Language of Flowers.** One of our more popular Good Nature walks has been our Secret Language of Flowers. Every flower has a meaning and in the Victorian Era flowers were used to convey secret messages. A fun activity to try is making a bouquet from your favorite garden flowers. After (and only after, that's part of the fun!) look up the meaning of the flower. Then make a fun story about your bouquet  
<https://www.almanac.com/content/flower-meanings-language-flowers>

**Build a Pollinator Hotel.** Another fun activity, especially with the Pollinator Week coming up in June, is to make your own pollinator hotel. This can be done from common items found in your yard and home. No need to shop, just get creative! Paper straws, pinecones, cracked flowerpots, sticks, chunks of log pieces, along with clean, empty cans will get you going. You can make shelf rooms for your hotel out of some flat wood boards and some rocks. <https://treadjoyfully.com/2017/08/03/pollinator-garden-the-bee-hotel/>

**Make your own Monarch Waystation.** You need much less than you think to have a place in your yard become a certified Monarch waystation. And yet, the impact is priceless. By adding just milkweed and various nectar plants to an existing garden in a sunny location, you have the makings for your own waystation. I created one last year and the process was fun and eye opening. <https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

**Make a Butterfly Puddler.** These are simple to make with things you have around the house. Just a clean, large, shallow dish, some sand or fine soil, a few rocks, and a little water is all you need. Put in just enough water to moisten the sand to a paste consistency. You will need to add more water, as the sand dries. Adding small rocks will give the butterflies a place to rest while drinking. <https://premeditatedleftovers.com/gardening/create-butterfly-puddler/>



A close up of Bev's Pollinator Hotel



## We keep doing the regular work when we can ...

### Wilbur May Arboretum Upgrades

By Bill Carlos

Many thanks to the **May Foundation** for upgrades in Dixie Plaza Garden. This included the removal and replacement of the pavers. Also, several deteriorating concrete pads near the Plaza Garden were removed and replaced thanks to **Washoe County Infrastructure Preservation** funds. These were just two of the upgrades that were completed last fall. Others included new irrigation in Honey's Garden and the Nevada Bell Grove, thanks to the **May Arboretum Society**. Other upgrades by the county included removal and replacement of the asphalt path in Kleiner Oak Grove. Also, a new pump and well for Honey's Garden waterfall were installed this past year thanks to **Washoe County's** involvement. It was a busy season of much needed upgrades. We will feature each one throughout the year.



New pavers in Dixie Plaza Garden



Concrete pad replacement near Dixie Plaza

### Got Extra Craft Supplies?



Are you decluttering these days? Do you have any craft supplies you'd like to donate to the Arboretum? We can sure use them. Please set them aside for us and we will set up a drop off process when our restrictions are lifted and our volunteer projects resume. Thanks so much!



## Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

### May 2020

- ♦ **May 1st May Day!**
- ♦ **May 10th Mother's Day!**
- ♦ **May 25th Memorial Day - (Observed)**

**Get creative while Social Distancing! Check out the Victorian Flower Activities**



SUN	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

### June 2020

- ♦ **June 21 Father's Day!**
- ♦ **June 22-18th Pollinator Week!**

**Get creative while Social Distancing! Check out the family activity video on our Wilbur May Center Facebook page mentioned on page 2!**



SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Interesting Spots to Check Out

By Bev Treadway

### Our Own Backyard!

Whether you live in a big house, tiny house, mobile home, or apartment, the one place we are spending more time during social distancing is in our own backyard. And it doesn't hurt one bit that the weather has turned warm!

In our own various fashions, we've found ways to keep connected. Our lives have slowed down. Maybe, we chat with our neighbors a little more. Or we're planting our own victory garden. Maybe, all we have is a balcony, but we've spruced up our plants and added a bird feeder. Or maybe, we like music and we're making a family dance video.

The point is, we are seeing just how interesting staying at home can be and our creative juices are flowing. We're able to take the time to pause and really see the world and the people around us.

And that's not such a bad thing.



DIY balcony photo by DigsDigs



Rod Dimmitt's "succulent" backyard



One of Bev's backyard pollinator garden perennials

Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!

